

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-01 NSC-05 ERDA-05 OES-06
AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00
INRE-00 /095 W
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O 182241Z MAR 77
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2828

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0815

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, TSPA
SUBJECT: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE: DBS.

1. AFTER FIRST WEEK OF PLENARY DEBATE AND INFORMAL DIS-
CUSSIONS, THE DELEGATION HAS FORMED THE FOLLOWING GENERAL
IMPRESSIONS ON THE DBS ISSUE.

2. THE SOVIET UNION AND MOST WESTERN DELEGATES ARE AWARE
OF IMPORT OF RECENT ITU WARC RESULTS THOUGH TO VARYING
DEGREES OF SOPHISTICATION. OTHER DELEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, HOWEVER, DO NOT APPEAR TO KNOW ABOUT
OR APPRECIATE THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE ITU DECISIONS.

3. MOST DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THE SOVIET UNION/EASTERN
BLOC AND FRANCE CONTINUE TO URGE AN EXPRESS PRINCIPLE ON
PRIOR CONSENT. MOST WESTERN EUROPEANS, WITH UK AND CANADA
BEING THE LEADING PROPONENTS, FAVOR SOME FORM OF TECHNICAL
FIX APPROACH. NO DELEGATION AS YET RETURNED TO THE LICENSING
APPROACH DISCUSSED LAST YEAR BY A FEW DELEGATIONS IN CORRIDOR
CONVERSATION.

4. ALTHOUGH THE NEGOTIATING SITUATION HAS NOT YET FULLY
CRYSTALLIZED, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A REASONABLE CHANCE TO
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OBTAIN AN ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON DBS PRINCIPLES THIS YEAR.
WE REGARD IT AS DESIRABLE TO TRY TO DO SO SINCE DELAYING
RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE UNTIL 1978 SEEMS UNLIKELY TO FUR-
THER US INTERESTS. INDEED, FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT
THIS YEAR COULD ITSELF TRIGGER A MORE ACRIMONIOUS AND CON-
TENTIOUS DEBATE LATER THIS YEAR WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF A
HOSTILE INITIATIVE HARMFUL TO FREEDOM-OF-INFORMATION IN-

TERESTS BEING PROPOSED AND ACCEPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

5. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, OUR FIRST OBJECTIVE WOULD OF COURSE BE TO TRY TO GET AGREEMENT ON DBS GUIDELINES BASED ONLY ON THE NINE PRINCIPLES TO WHICH LSC MEMBERS HAVE ALREADY AGREED. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM GENERAL DEBATE AND BILATERAL CONVERSATIONS THAT THIS IS NOT A REALISTIC OPTION, JUST AS IT WAS NOT AT EARLIER SESSIONS.

6. WE HAVE BEGUN THE "EDUCATIONAL TASK" OF EXPLAINING THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE WARC DECISIONS WITH OUR CLOSEST ATLANTIC COMMUNITY FRIENDS. WE HAVE INDICATED TO THEM PRIVATELY OUR READINESS TO EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF FORMULATING AN APPROPRIATELY WORDED "TECHNICAL FIX" FORMULATION WHICH WOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PRINCIPLE OF FREE FLOW OF INFORMATION. WE HAVE EXPRESSLY REAFFIRMED TO THE SOVIETS, AND WE WILL BE DOING SO WITH OTHERS, THAT WE CANNOT AGREE TO A PRIOR CONSENT PRINCIPLE.

7. IN PREPARATION FOR THE CONVENING OF THE DBS WORKING GROUP MARCH 28, WE INTEND TO WIDEN OUR CIRCLE OF CONSULTATIONS BEGINNING MARCH 21 TO INCLUDE A NUMBER OF KEY LATIN, AFRICAN AND ASIAN DELEGATIONS. WE WILL BE CONTINUING THE "EDUCATIONAL TASK", INDICATE RECEPTIVITY IN PRINCIPLE TO THE ELABORATION OF AN APPROPRIATELY WORDED "TECHNICAL FIX", AND SAY WE ARE WILLING ON AN AD REFERENDUM BASIS TO LOOK AT PROPOSALS THEY OR THE EUROPEANS MAY DEVELOP. WE OF COURSE WILL REPORT PROMPTLY ON THESE CONSULTATIONS AND ANY FORMULATIONS WHICH MAY BE SUGGESTED FOR CONSIDERATION IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE WORKING GROUP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, DBS, COMMUNICATION SATELLITES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, COMMITTEES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977USUNN00815
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770094-0027
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770343/aaaablks.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3060475
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OUTER SPACE LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE: DBS.
TAGS: TSPA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aba15cb5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009